

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1 – 20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the peptide of claim 1~~ an isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the polypeptide of claim 6~~ a hepatitis C virus core polypeptide comprising an L→A substitution at amino acid position 139 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the polypeptide of claim 11~~ a hepatitis C virus core polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the polypeptide fragment of claim 16~~ a fragment of a hepatitis C virus core polypeptide having fewer amino acids than the entire hepatitis C virus core polypeptide, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and a

pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the nucleic acid of claim 2~~ an isolated nucleic acid encoding the peptide of claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the nucleic acid of claim 7~~ an isolated nucleic acid encoding the peptide of claim 22 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the nucleic acid of claim 12~~ an isolated nucleic acid encoding the peptide of claim 23 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the nucleic acid of claim 17~~ an isolated nucleic acid encoding the peptide of claim 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

29. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the vector of claim 3~~ a vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the vector of claim 8~~ a vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the vector of claim 13~~ a vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 27 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the vector of claim 18~~ a vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 28 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33 – 72 (canceled)